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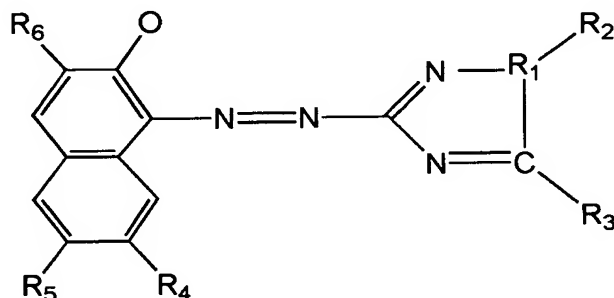
CLAIMS

1. A magenta dye blend for formulating an ink-jet ink, comprising:
- (a) a nickel -containing azo dye, blended with
 - (b) a rhodamine dye,
- 10 said nickel -containing azo dye to rhodamine dye weight ratio being from 1:80 to 125:4.

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2. A magenta dye blend as in claim 1, wherein the nickel -containing azo dye comprises a nickel metalized naphthol azo triazole.

3. A magenta dye blend as in claim 1, wherein the nickel -containing azo dye comprises a dye having the structure:



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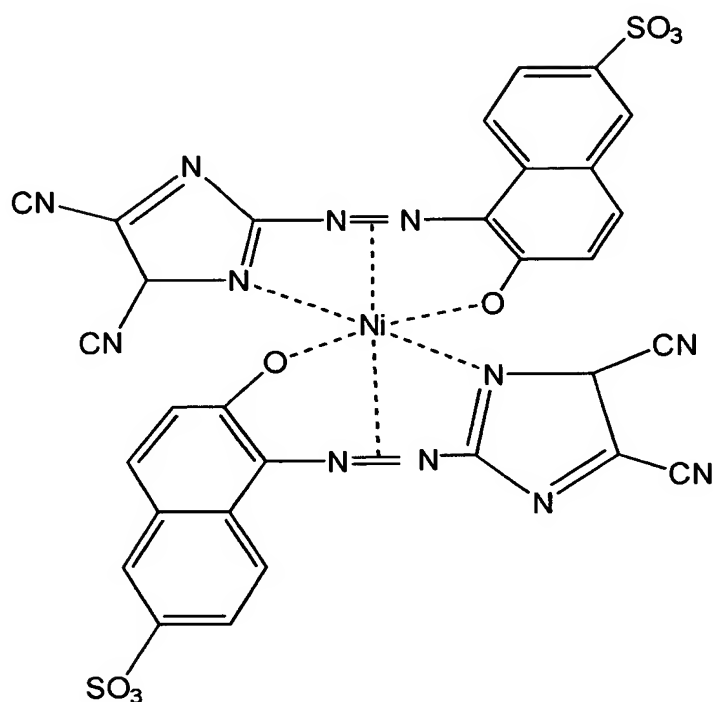
wherein the nickel to dye molecule ratio is 1:1, 1:2 or 2:2;

and wherein R₁ is N or C; R₂, R₃, R₄, R₅ and R₆ are CN, COOM, SO₃, SO₃M, H, or SO₂NH₂;

and wherein M is H, Na, Li, K, NH₄, ammonium substituted alkyl or

25 combinations thereof.

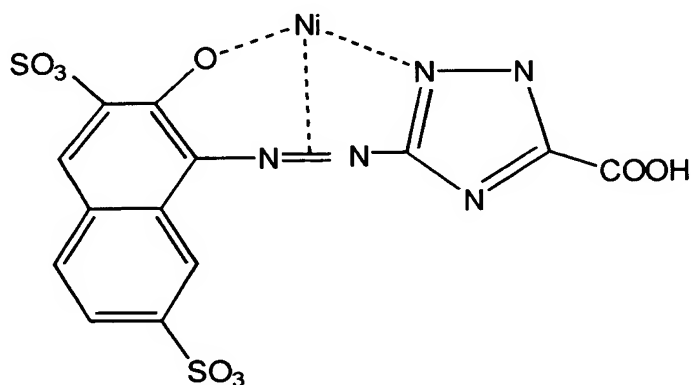
4. A magenta dye blend as in claim 3, wherein the nickel -containing azo dye comprises a dye having the structure:



5 wherein the nickel to dye molecule ratio is 1:2;
and wherein R₁ is C; R₂ and R₃ are CN; R₅ is SO₃; and R₄ and R₆ are H.

5. A magenta dye blend as in claim 3, wherein the nickel-containing azo dye comprises a dye having the structure:

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wherein the nickel to dye molecule ratio is 1:1;
and wherein R₁ is N; R₂ is H; R₃ is COOH; R₄ is SO₃; R₅ is H and R₆ is SO₃.

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6. A magenta dye blend as in claim 1, wherein the rhodamine dye comprises a member selected from the group consisting of Acid Red 52, Acid Red 289, Acid Red 388, and mixtures thereof.

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7. A magenta dye blend as in claim 1, wherein the nickel -containing azo dye is a single nickel -containing azo dye.

8. A magenta dye blend as in claim 1, wherein the nickel -containing azo dye is at least two nickel -containing azo dyes blended together.

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9. A magenta dye blend as in claim 1, wherein the rhodamine dye is a single rhodamine dye.

10. A magenta dye blend as in claim 1, wherein the rhodamine dye is at least two rhodamine dyes blended together.

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11. A magenta ink-jet ink for ink-jet printing, comprising:

- (a) an effective amount of an ink vehicle; and
- (b) from 0.9 wt% to 10.5 wt% of a magenta dye blend admixed in the ink vehicle, said magenta dye blend comprising a nickel -containing azo dye and a rhodamine dye at a weight ratio from 1:80 to 125:4.

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12. A magenta ink-jet ink as in claim 11, wherein the rhodamine dye is present in the magenta ink-jet ink at from 0.1 wt% to 2.5 wt%.

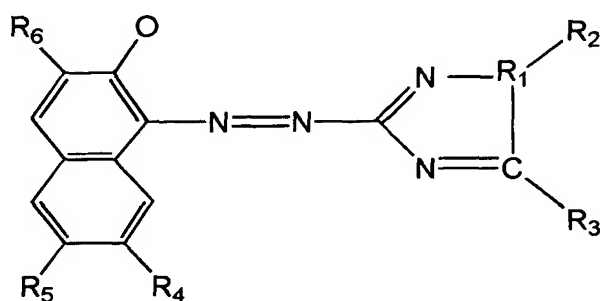
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13. A magenta ink-jet ink as in claim 11, wherein the nickel -containing azo dye is present in the magenta ink-jet ink at from 0.8 wt% to 8 wt%.

14. A magenta ink-jet ink as in claim 11, wherein the nickel -containing azo dye comprises a nickel metalized naphthol azo triazole.

15. A magenta ink-jet ink as in claim 11, wherein the nickel -containing azo dye comprises a dye having the structure:

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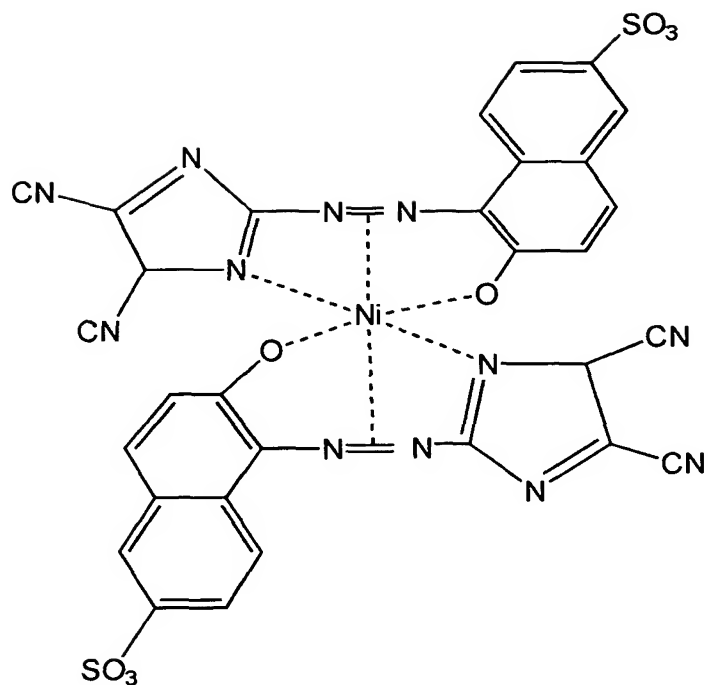
wherein the nickel to dye molecule ratio is 1:1, 1:2 or 2:2;

and wherein R₁ is N or C; R₂, R₃, R₄, R₅ and R₆ are CN, COOM, SO₃, SO₃M, H, or SO₂NH₂;

and wherein M is H, Na, Li, K, NH₄, ammonium substituted alkyl or combinations thereof.

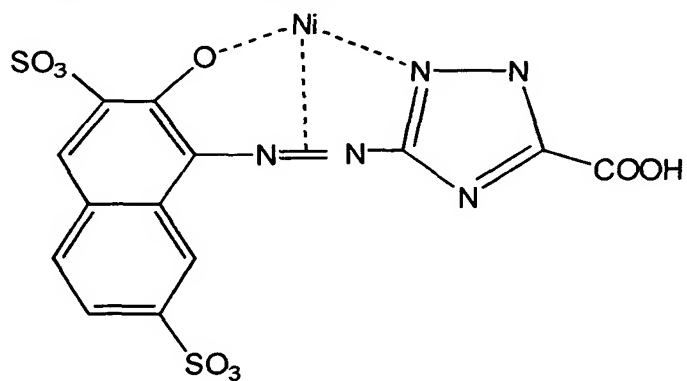
16. A magenta ink-jet ink as in claim 15, wherein the nickel -containing azo dye comprises a dye having the structure:

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- 5 wherein the dye has a nickel to dye molecule ratio of 1:2;
and wherein R₁ is C; R₂ and R₃ are CN; R₅ is SO₃; and R₄ and R₆ are H.

17. A magenta ink-jet ink as in claim 15, wherein the nickel-containing azo dye comprises a dye having the structure:



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wherein the nickel to dye molecule ratio is 1:1;

and wherein R_1 is N; R_2 is H; R_3 is COOH; R_4 is SO_3 ; R_5 is H and R_6 is SO_3 .

18. A magenta ink-jet ink as in claim 11, wherein the rhodamine dye comprises a member selected from the group consisting of Acid Red 52, Acid Red 289, Acid Red 388, and mixtures thereof.

19. A magenta ink-jet ink as in claim 11, wherein the nickel-containing azo dye is a single nickel-containing azo dye.

20. A magenta ink-jet ink as in claim 11, wherein the nickel-containing azo dye is at least two nickel-containing azo dyes blended together.

21. A magenta ink-jet ink as in claim 11, wherein the rhodamine dye is a single rhodamine dye.

22. A magenta ink-jet ink as in claim 11, wherein the rhodamine dye is at least two rhodamine dyes blended together.

23. A magenta ink-jet ink as in claim 11, wherein the ink vehicle comprises from 5.0% to 50.0% by weight of solvent, from 0.01% to 10.0% of surfactant, and water.

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